

Michigan Turtle Health Advisory Sheet

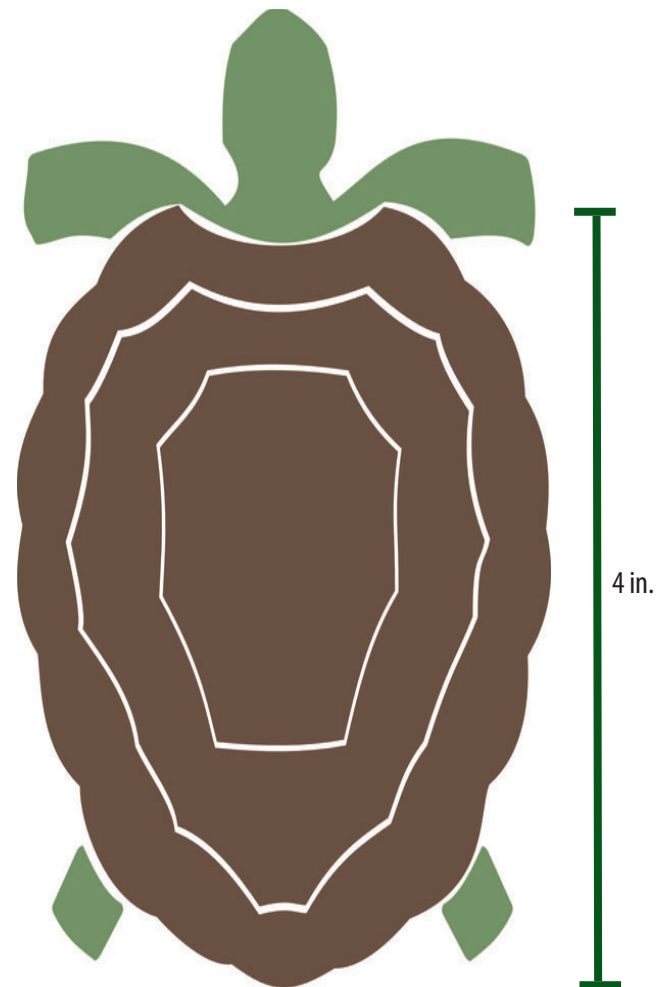
The sale of small turtles, turtles with a shell length of four inches or less, and viable turtle eggs is illegal in the U.S. because turtles can carry a germ called Salmonella. The only exemptions for the sale of small turtles and viable turtle eggs are for legitimate scientific, educational, or exhibition purposes. **It is illegal to sell small turtles and viable eggs for pets.** Small turtles can pose an increased risk of salmonella illness to children, as they can put them in their mouths. Only purchase turtles with shells longer than four inches for pets.

Turtles Carry Salmonella

Turtles can look healthy but still carry salmonella and spread the disease to humans. There is no effective way to make turtles salmonella-free, even if they are treated with antibiotics. Salmonella infections in humans can be especially severe in infants and the elderly, and can result in death in immunocompromised populations.

If you are purchasing a small turtle or viable turtle eggs for legitimate scientific, educational, or exhibition purposes, take the following precautions:

- Do not allow the turtle or the turtle's water near your mouth.
- Wash hands thoroughly after touching the turtle, cage, or water.
- Change the turtle's water frequently.
- Do not change the water in the same location where food is prepared for human consumption.
- Do not feed the turtle raw meat or anything that contains raw eggs.
- Do not place turtles in sinks or bath tubs.



Visit www.cdc.gov/healthypets for more information on how to be safe around turtles and other reptiles.

Michigan law requires that sellers of small turtles and viable turtle eggs for legitimate scientific, educational, or exhibition purposes provide the purchaser(s) with a copy of this document.

Questions? Contact us at 800-292-3939